

Lou Schumacher

(1922 - 1998)

Lou was born May 5, 1922 in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1947 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Lou served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1942-1946. On December 27, 1947 Lou married former 1st Lieutenant "Topper" Price.

Lou became a developer in Hickman Mills as well as a community activist and served a number of community organizations. For his work, Lou was awarded the "Keys" to the cities of Kansas City and St. Louis for community involvement. Lou's tireless work provided leadership in the economic development of the Hickman Mills area and the revitalization that is moving forward today.

Lou founded 3-Trails West, a not-for-profit organization, with the goals to identify, certify and preserve the principal routes of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California routes through the Kansas City area. Lou and his wife, Topper, donated three acres of land on a strip of the Old Santa Fe Trail and established it as Schumacher Park. Lou and his team of local trail enthusiasts continued their search for the historic trail and it is the trail they found in conjunction with the National Park Service that we preserve and protect today.

Lou received numerous awards: Friends of the Trails Award from OCTA in 1990; a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Park Service, The Santa Fe Trail Award of Merit, Proclamation of Appreciation of Community Service from Kansas City, MO in 1991; Certificates of Appreciation from the DAR, and the Gold Award from the Department of Interior, National Park Service both in 1996. Lou served on the board of directors for both SFTA and OCTA.

Lou passed away May 12, 1998 at his home. Lou's two sons, John Schumacher and Lou Austin, continue to promote the ideals of Lou to this day.

